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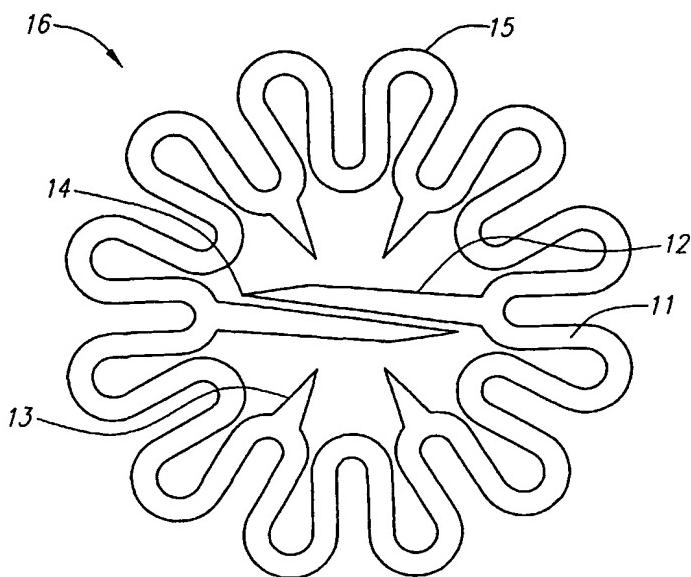
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(54) Title: METHODS FOR MANUFACTURING A CLIP AND CLIP



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method of making clips which can be used to engage body tissue for the purpose of closing wounds. Such clips are generally annular in shape and have radially inwardly extending tines. The present invention first forms a precursor which, in one embodiment, has the tines extending radially outwardly from the annular body and then forms the clip by inverting the precursor such that the tines extend radially inwardly. In an alternate embodiment, the precursor is formed with an over-sized lateral dimension and then compressed inwardly to bring the tines closer together and to reduce the lateral dimension of the precursor. It is preferred to manufacture such clips from a superelastic alloy such as nickel-titanium, in which case the inverted or compressed precursor must be heated and quenched to heat set the clip in its final shape.

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Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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A	US 2002/188318 A1 (ALDRICH WILLIAM N ET AL) 12 December 2002 (2002-12-12)  paragraph '0042!; figure 1a paragraph '0050! – paragraph '0056!; figures 2a-2c  ----- US 2002/082641 A1 (ALDRICH WILLIAM N ET AL) 27 June 2002 (2002-06-27)  paragraph '0040! – paragraph '0042!; figures 1a-1c paragraph '0050!; figure 6a paragraph '0069!; figure 12  ----- -/-	1-4, 7-10, 12, 14-16
A		1-3, 8-10, 14-16

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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